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PAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION

Director Unaware Of CIA Support

Pan American Foundation Director A. Curtis Wilgus said yesterday he didn't know the CIA had funded one of the foundation's projects until he read last week's newspapers.

Wilgus is a researcher in Latin American Studies at the University of Florida. The foundation was organized in Washington in 1938 to promote "good-neighborliness and Pan-Americanism."

"I had no idea the J. Fredrick Brown Foundation, from which we received funds for a project, was a CIA front," Wilgus commented yesterday in a telephone interview from Miami. "If somebody helps us out, we don't ask for his life history."

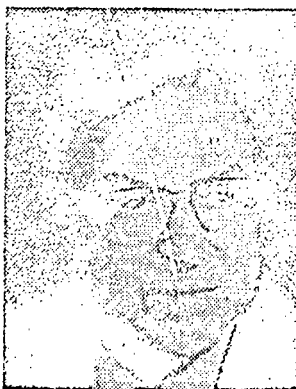
"I DON'T remember what project the funds were for. The New York Times reported we got the money in 1964 — that's how I found out about it."

Newspaper articles had linked the Pan American Foundation with the University of Florida, but officials there denied the foundation was university-based.

"Dr. Lyle McAlister, director of the Latin American Studies program said he was 'absolutely certain' the foundation was not connected with the University of Florida."

"I don't think the university ever got a cent from it," he said.

"TO THE best of my knowledge, none of the support for the Caribbean Conference (a university conference headed by Wilgus) ever came from the Pan American Foundation. Wilgus received private contributions from companies like Esso



A. CURTIS WILGUS
... didn't ask history.

and Alcoa for the conference," he commented.

University news sources said Wilgus had been affiliated with the Pan American Foundation since 1957.

But Wilgus said yesterday he has worked with the association in Gainesville since he moved here from Washington in 1951.

The foundation's headquarters were moved to Gainesville in 1950 and remained there until Wilgus moved the Journal of Inter-American Studies to Miami in 1965. The journal was copyrighted by the foundation for several years.

"WE NEVER solicit funds without a specific project in mind," Wilgus said. "I do the soliciting part of the time. But I don't remember about all the money. In fact, I'm seldom in the office. I don't keep up with these things," Wilgus said yesterday.

He said Pan American Foundation officials didn't know the Brown foundation was CIA-connected.

"I would think a foundation of that sort, would have some

standing or reliability. If they help us out, we're glad to have it," he added.

Wilgus is retiring from the University of Florida effective in June. He will then move to Miami, where he will continue to work with the foundation.

At least two series of booklets have been copyrighted by the Pan American Foundation in Gainesville and published with university ties.

ONE WAS a 25-booklet series called Latin American Monograph, which ran from September, 1957 through 1963.

It contained scholarly writings by some of the university faculty and by Latin American and national figures.

The second was the Journal of Inter-American Studies, published from January 1959 through April 1964, copyrighted by the Pan American Foundation.

It was published quarterly by the Inter-American Academy, connected with the university school of inter-American studies and printed by Drew Company in Jacksonville.

A SECOND series of the pamphlet is now being published under sponsorship of the Ford Foundation in Miami.

The Pan American Foundation is a non-profit organization, incorporated by leaders in

inter-American affairs from the United States and Latin America.

It cooperates with inter-American organization, grants fellowships and scholarships to students, assists teachers in travel and research, publishes and distributes books, booklets, pamphlets, monographs and bibliographies, according to a brochure.

The foundation offers consultant services free to educational and other groups and organizations who might need a U.S. expert on Latin America for consultation.

It supports its activities by soliciting contributions from individuals, companies and other organizations.